

# Living with the Waters

## Everglades Activity Book



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Jacksonville District

# About the Waters Family

The Waters family is a fictional family that moves to urban south Florida and faces everyday challenges. Along the way, they learn valuable lessons about its ecosystem and the plan to restore America's Everglades. The fun-loving members of the family include:



**Everett Waters** – The faithful father who oftentimes gets tired of his daughter's environmental antics.



**Maureen Waters** – The loving mother who is extremely supportive of her daughter's pro-environmentalism.



**Willow Waters** – A rambunctious teenager who is a die-hard environmentalist and is always trying to convince her family to conserve and protect the environment.



**Wade Waters** – The fraternal twin of Willow, who is a normal teenager that just wants to have fun.





**Lakela Waters** – The toddler who likes to follow behind her sister, Willow, but is always getting in the way and causing trouble.

**Opal Waters** – The paternal grandmother who loves to tell stories from the good old days.



**Otis Waters** – The wise-cracking grandfather who thinks he knows everything.

## About Everglades Restoration

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, or “CERP,” includes many important projects needed to restore and protect the Everglades. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the South Florida Water Management District, Everglades National Park and many others are working hand-in-hand to make the dream of a restored Everglades come true. The most important thing CERP projects will do is capture water that runs off the land and into the ocean and gulf. Most of this water will be used to revive the great Everglades ecosystem. The remaining water can be used to help south Florida cities and farms with their need for fresh water.



# Activity: crossword Puzzle

Instructions: The Waters family is in motion. Put your thinking cap in gear and see if you can guess the clues in this crossword puzzle.



Everett



Maureen



Willow



Wade



Lakela



Opal



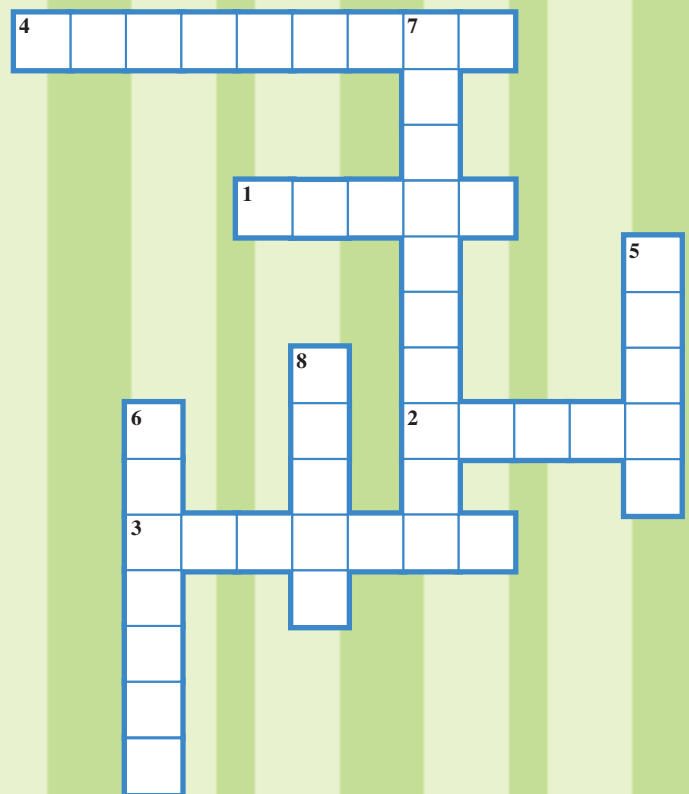
Otis

## Across:

1. The Everglades is suffering from a severe shortage of clean, reliable \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Some 350 of these species live in the Everglades.
3. This endangered animal is a symbol of the Everglades ecosystem.
4. This lizard looking reptile lives in the Everglades and can grow to 16 feet or longer.

## Down:

5. The Everglades is known as the River of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The most recognizable tree in the Everglades.
7. The second largest freshwater lake in the U.S.
8. This percentage of the Everglades has been lost to agricultural and urban development.



## Waters in Motion

MOMMY, I THOUGHT WE WERE MOVING TO THE EVERGLADES! BUT, THERE'S NO WATER AND WHERE ARE ALL THE ALLIGATORS AND PANTHERS?



SWEETY, THIS IS THE EVERGLADES...

REALLY, THEN WHERE ARE THE BIRDS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY - THE WATER?



THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, WADE. OVER THE YEARS MORE THAN HALF THE EVERGLADES HAS BEEN LOST TO URBAN AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.



SO, WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME IS WE KNOCKED DOWN TREES, DRAINED THE WATER AND KICKED OUT THE ALLIGATORS TO BUILD THIS PLUSH SIX BEDROOM, FIVE BATHROOM HOUSE?



LUHH!

## Activity: Word Scramble

Instructions: Everett had an interesting wake-up call. See if you can wake up and shake up these letters and unscramble these words.



# 1. T E Y C M A I R



## 2. G D E N A D N E E R



### 3. O K D W O S R O T



## 4. E G A E V E R L D S



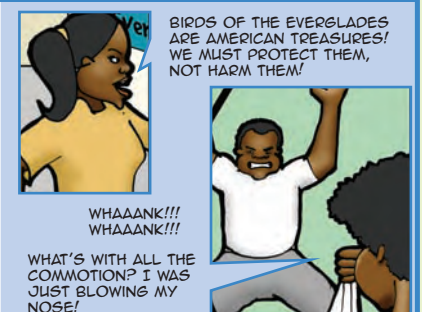
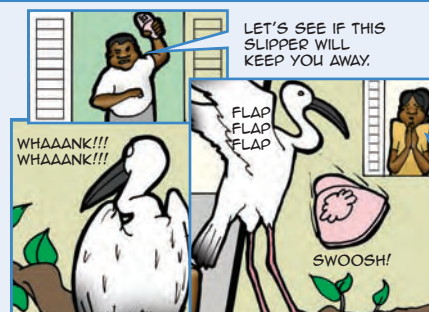
## 5. U R T S E A R E S



## 6. D I B S R



## Wake Up call

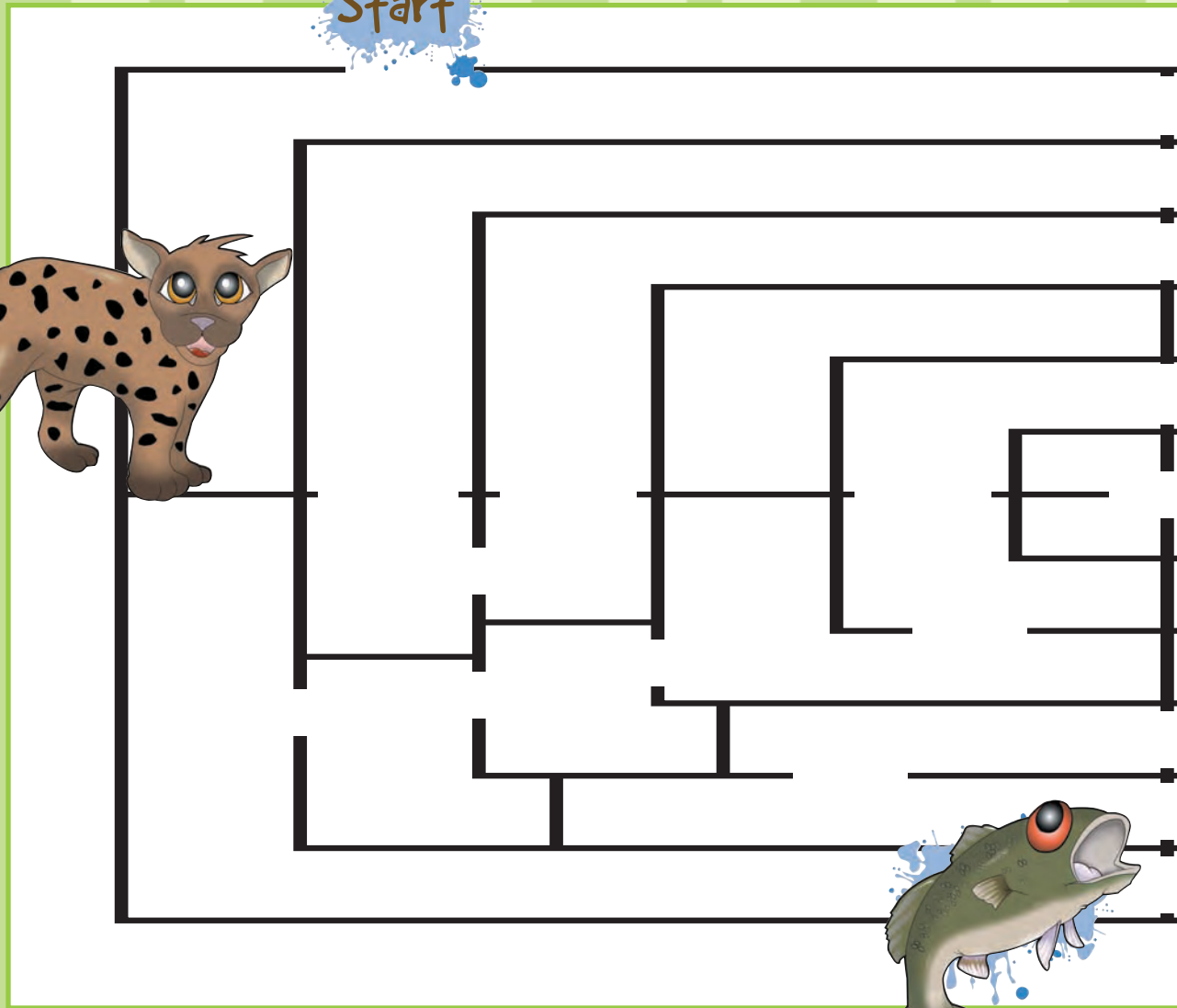


# Activity: Maze



Instructions: Willow is an amazing kid – wise beyond her years. See if you can find your way through this maze.

Start



## There's Something About Willow



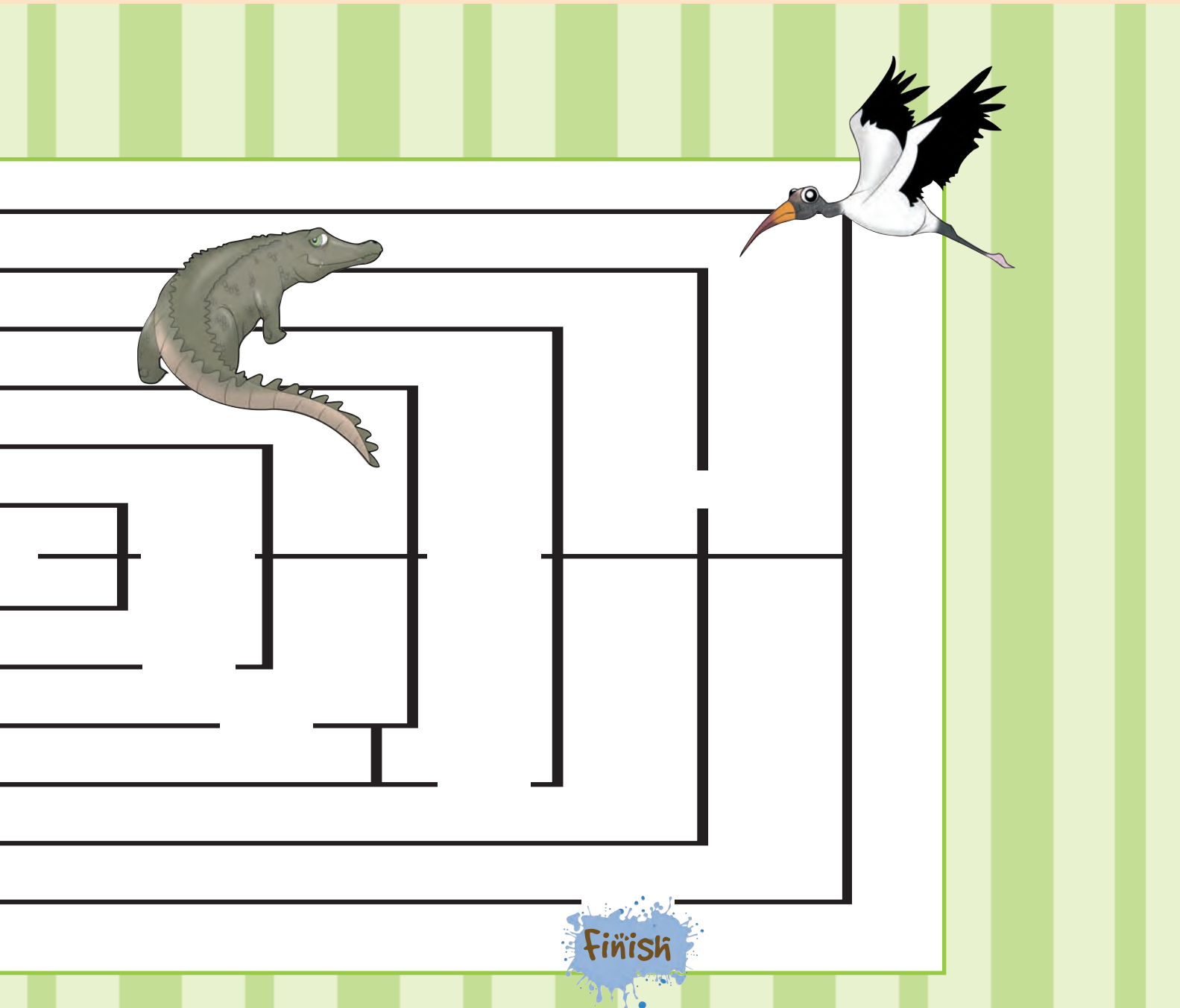
HEY EVERYBODY! I WAS JUST SURFING ON EVERGLADESPLAN.ORG, AND I FOUND OUT THERE'S A WILLOW TREE! CAN WE PLEASE PLANT ONE IN OUR BACKYARD, MOM AND DAD?



NO, HONEY. WILLOW TREES LIVE IN THE EVERGLADES AND IN WETLAND TREE ISLANDS WHERE SEEDS CAN GERMINATE IN THE MOIST SOIL.

THANK YOU. I CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER WILLOW AROUND HERE. BESIDES, I THOUGHT A WILLOW WAS A SPIDER.





Finish





# Activity: Word Search

Instructions: The Waters family is a class act. Pretend you're in class and see if you can get an A on this word search!



Everett



Maureen



Opal



Otis



Willow



Wade



Lakela

D	E	L	I	V	E	R	E	D	C
Q	V	A	B	C	D	E	F	I	L
U	E	G	H	I	J	K	L	S	A
A	R	E	S	T	O	R	E	T	S
L	G	M	N	P	L	A	N	R	S
I	L	O	P	Q	R	R	S	I	A
T	A	T	U	V	E	E	W	B	C
Y	D	A	B	C	T	D	C	U	T
E	E	F	G	H	A	I	J	T	K
L	S	M	N	O	W	P	Q	E	R
G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T

**CERP**

**Class Act**

**Delivered**

**Distribute**

**Everglades**

**Government**

**Quality**

**Restore**

**Plan**

**Water**

## Class Act

WILLOW, I NEED HELP WRITING THIS PAPER FOR CLASS.

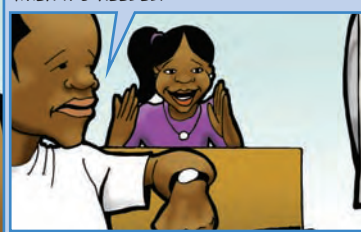


I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE KIND OF HELP WHERE I DO IT AND YOU WATCH TV.

THAT'S AN OPTION... BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO FIX THE EVERGLADES.



THE GOAL IS TO FIX THE WATER SO CLEAN WATER IS DELIVERED WHERE IT IS NEEDED ON TIME. THAT MEANS CLEANING THE WATER, STORING THE WATER, AND DISTRIBUTING IT WHEN IT'S NEEDED.



SO WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS THE DRY CLEANERS FOR WATER?

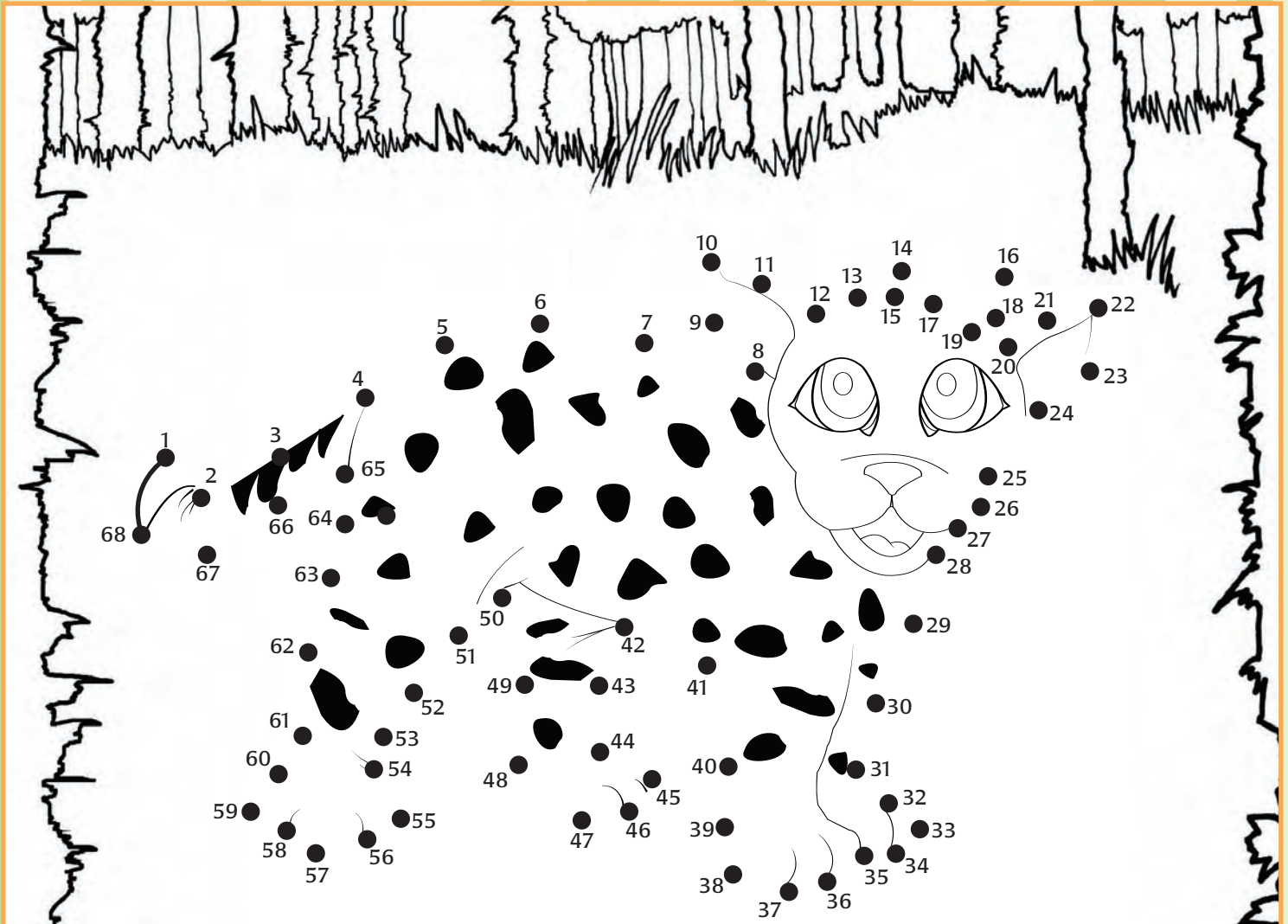


I GIVE UP!



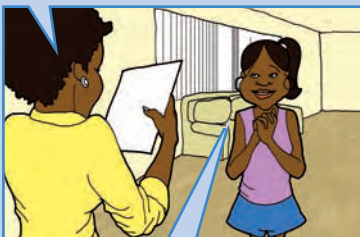
# Activity: Connect the Dots

Instructions: Maureen had a little trouble connecting to the meeting. See if you can connect the dots below!



## Public Meeting Role Reversal

GUESS WHAT, WILLLOW? A PUBLIC MEETING ABOUT THE EVERGLADES IS BEING HELD TONIGHT.



OOOH, CAN I GO MOMMY, PLEEEASE?

CERP WILL RESTORE FLORIDA'S EVERGLADES AND ENSURE THE FRESH WATER SUPPLIES FOR YEARS TO COME. THE PLAN INVOLVES PROJECTS TO CAPTURE, STORE AND CLEAN WATER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

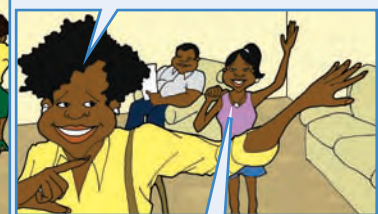


WHAT DID YOU LEARN?



SO MUCH! IT'S FASCINATING TO HEAR HOW THE EVERGLADES ARE GOING TO BE RESTORED.

CERTS IS A GREAT PLAN. I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOU MORE IN THE MORNING.



CERTS! MOM, IT'S CERP! AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO HAVE TO FILL ME IN ON THE MEETING. GOOD GRIEF!

# Activity: Spot the Difference

Instructions: Melaleuca trees are a real pest. See if you can find at least eight differences between the two pictures without going mad!



What's different?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## Melaleuca Madness

WOW! WHAT BIG TREES. BUT, WHERE ARE THE BIRDS?



THERE ARE NONE! YOU'RE LOOKING AT ONE OF THE WORST ENEMIES OF THE EVERGLADES. THE INVASIVE MELALEUCA

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



IT'S A PEST PLANT. IT HAS FEW NATURAL ENEMIES IN SOUTH FLORIDA AND TAKES OVER WETLANDS.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?



THE GOVERNMENT IS REMOVING IT, BUT IT'S A TOUGH BATTLE. RECENTLY, THEY INTRODUCED A TINY BEETLE THAT EATS THE TREES.

DO THESE BUGS EAT GRASS? LET'S CATCH A FEW AND RELEASE THEM ON OUR FRONT LAWN. MAYBE I WON'T HAVE TO CUT THE GRASS NEXT WEEKEND!



WHATEVER!

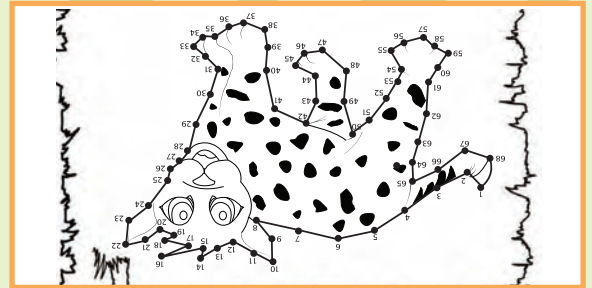
# About the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a federal agency that specializes in the planning, engineering, construction and management of large infrastructure projects. Its Jacksonville District serves Florida and the Caribbean. Missions include flood damage reduction, water resources management, navigation, shore protection and restoration, environmental restoration, military support, emergency response and hazardous, toxic, and radioactive remediation.

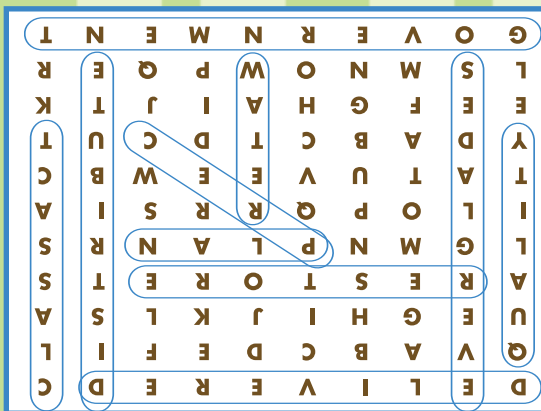


1. Extra leaves
2. Willow's ponytail
3. Willow's earring
4. Willow's shorts
5. Wade's belt
6. Wade's socks
7. Wood stork
8. Missing water

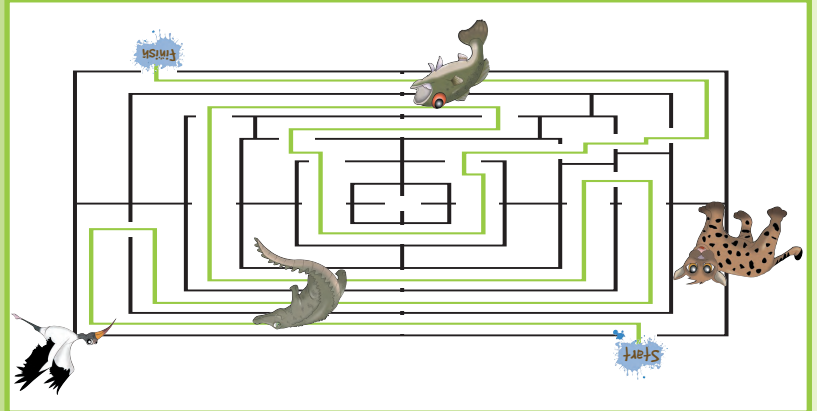
Activity: Spot the Difference on page 9



Activity: Connect the Dots on page 8



Activity: Word Search on page 7



Activity: Maze on page 5

- Across:
1. Myceteria
  2. Endangered
  3. Wood stork
  4. Everglades
  5. Treasures
  6. Birds

- Down:
1. Water
  2. Birds
  3. Panther
  4. Alligator
  5. Grass
  6. Cypress
  7. Okeechobee
  8. Fifty

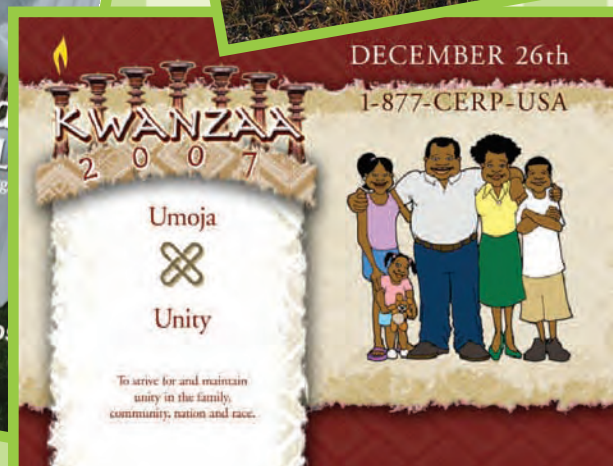
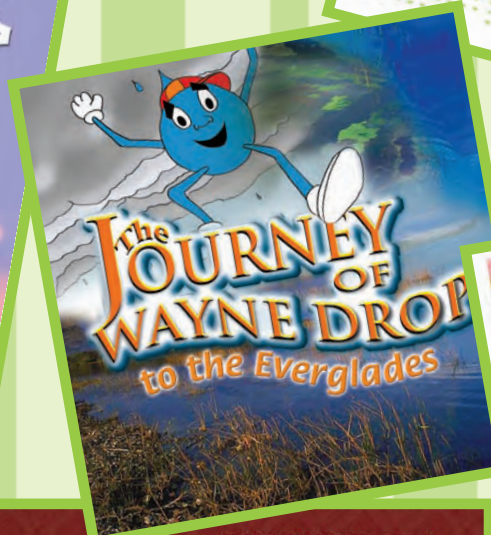
Activity: Word Scramble on page 4

Activity: Crossword Puzzle on page 3

## Answer Key



# USACE Everglades Restoration outreach Products



For more information, call (877) CERP-USA or visit the website at [www.evergladesplan.org](http://www.evergladesplan.org).

